Fresh/modern look to Taj Mahal

†3522. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any scheme is under consideration to provide a fresh/modern look to Taj Mahal by bringing in improvement in the beauty and looks thereof;

(b) if so, the outline thereof;

(c) the estimated cost to be incurred for the same; and

(d) the time-frame fixed for the implementation of the said scheme?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (d) The Archaeological Survey of India undertakes the conservation of Taj Mahal strictly in accordance with the archaeological norms. Apart from conservation and preservation of the monument, the Archaeological Survey of India also undertakes development of its gardens and facilities for tourists. A total expenditure of Rs. 2.86 crores was incurred on the above account during the last three years.

In additions, the Ministry of Tourism has taken up a project at an estimated cost of Rs. 39.34 crores for Agra Revitalisation and Visitor Management for Taj Mahal. The integrated project is expected to be completed within a period of 36 months.

Medaras community in Andhra Pradesh

3523. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Anthropoligical Survey of India based at Mysore has done any recent study on the bamboo-dependant community of Medaras in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether it is a fact that the ASI has its Southern Regional Office at Mysore;

(c) if so, the details of such study done by regional centers of ASI on the Medaras of Andhra Pradesh;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) how was this study initiated and who took the initiative; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken to study the socio-cultural furture of the Medaras community of Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The title of the study is "The Medari of Andhra Pradesh an ethnographic profile by Dr. K. Ravi and Shri G.V. Ramana".

(d) On the basis of representation made by Prof. Pulla Rao, a Social Activist, the Ministry instructed the Anthropoligical Survey of India to study the Medaras community of Andhra Pradesh.

(e) The study has already been conducted by the Anthropological Survey of India.

Neglect of tribal culture in National Museums

3524. SHRI URKHAO GWRA BRAHMA: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in many National Museums, tribal cultures of India are not getting proper place and some of them are kept in a neglected manner;

(b) if so, what steps will be taken by her Ministry to improve the conditions;

(c) how many National Museums have depicted or displayed properly the tribal art and culture in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the expenditure incurred thereon for the above purpose?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Some important museums under the administrative control of Ministry of Culture such as Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya, Bhopal and Indian Museum, Kolkata are conducting several programmes for collection, documentation, conservation and display of tribal cultures